

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----029667 171721Z /47

O 171702Z MAR 7
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9206
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNSC, PBOR, PEPR, IS, LE, UR
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE TO SOVIETS ON UNSC ACTION IN MIDDLE EAST

REF: STATE 68560

1. DCM CALLED TODAY ON OLEG GRINEVSKIY, DEPUTY CHIEF OF MFA NEAR EAST DIVISION, TO INFORM HIM OF THE STEPS WE BELIEVE ARE NECESSARY TO PRESERVE LEBANON'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. AFTER REVIEWING POINTS IN PARA 3 REFTEL, DCM EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SOVIETS WOULD SUPPORT THESE PROPOSALS.

2. GRINEVSKIY SAID THAT SOVIETS WOULD SUPPORT INSCRIPTION OF QUESTION AT UNSC, AND ASKED WHETHER U.S. HAD CONSULTED WITH ARAB COUNTRIES REGARDING ITS PROPOSALS. DCM REPLIED THAT HE WAS NOT INFORMED OF PRECISE STAGE OF OUR CONSULTATIONS, BUT UNDERSTOOD THAT WE WOULD BE CONSULTING WITH VARIOUS INTERESTED COUNTRIES. GRINEVSKIY THEN OBSERVED THAT "RESTORING LEBANESE CIVILIAN

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AND MILITARY CONTROL TO BORDER REGION" SEEMED TO REPRESENT A NOVEL FUNCTION FOR UN PEACEKEEPING FORCES, BUT HE DID NOT QUESTION THE CONCEPT OTHERWISE. HE SAID THAT U.S. PROPOSALS WOULD BE GIVEN CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AND THAT U.S. AND SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES WOULD BE IN TOUCH REGARDING THESE MATTERS IN NEW YORK, AND PERHAPS ELSE-

WHERE.

3. IN EXPLANATION OF CURRENT SOVIET POSITION, GRINEVSKIY REFERRED TO MARCH 16 TASS STATEMENT AND TO OTHER ARTICLES IN SOVIET PRESS. DCM NOTED THAT WE ARE OF COURSE FAMILIAR WITH THESE STATEMENTS, AND THAT WE ARE FRANKLY DISTURBED BY THE TENDENTIOUS AND ONE-SIDED APPROACH TAKEN BY THE SOVIET PRESS, AND ALSO BY THE SOVIET MEDIA'S INSINUATIONS OF U.S. COMPLICITY AND ITS MISREPRESENTATION OF U.S. POLICY IN GENERAL. IN THIS CONTEXT, HE OUTLINED POINTS MADE BY DEPARTMENT PRESS SPOKESMAN ON MARCH 16.

4. GRINEVSKIY PROTESTED - WITHOUT MUCH HEAT - THAT SOVIET PRESS HAD BEEN "OBJECTIVE" IN COVERING SITUATION, AND THEN TURNED TO A STATEMENT WHICH HAD BEEN PREPARED IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING, AND WHICH HE READ IN RUSSIAN FROM HANDWRITTEN NOTES. IN CLOSE PARAPHRASE, IT WENT AS FOLLOWS (NO COPY WAS SUPPLIED):

A. THE SOVIETS ASSUME THAT THE U.S. RECOGNIZES THE DANGER OF THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON AND THE CONSEQUENCES WHICH MAY FLOW FROM IT UNLESS URGENT STEPS ARE TAKEN TO TERMINATE THE ISRAELI INTERVENTION AND WITHDRAW ISRAELI FORCES FROM LEBANESE TERRITORY. OTHERWISE, IT CANNOT BE EXCLUDED THAT EVENTS COULD TAKE A TURN SO THAT OTHER MIDDLE EAST STATES, AND NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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THEM ALONE, COULD BE DRAWN INTO THE CONFLICT.

B. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT ISRAELI MILITARY INTERVENTION IN LEBANON, UNLESS IT IS HALTED IMMEDIATELY, CAN DELAY THE POSSIBILITY OF A M.E. SETTLEMENT FOR MANY YEARS, AND EVEN UNDERMINE IT COMPLETELY.

C. SOVIETS URGENTLY APPEAL TO U.S. TO USE EVERY MEANS AT ITS DISPOSAL TO ENCOURAGE ISRAEL TO CEASE ITS INTERVENTION, TO COMPLETELY WITHDRAW ITS TROOPS FROM LEBANESE TERRITORY, AND TO REFRAIN FROM FURTHER UNSETTLING ACTS.

D. THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN CONSULTING WITH THE ARAB COUNTRIES INTENSIVELY, AND CONSIDER IT AN URGENT NECESSITY FOR BOTH THE U.S. AND USSR TO WORK ACTIVELY TOWARD AN OVERALL PEACE SETTLEMENT IN THE M.E.

5. DCM RECALLED PHRASE USED BY GRINEVSKIY IN HIS INITIAL POINT THAT OTHER M.E. STATES "AND NOT THEM ALONE" COULD BE DRAWN INTO CONFLICT, AND ASKED IF GRINEVSKIY COULD BE SPECIFIC AS TO ITS MEANING.

GRINEVSKIY SAID HE WAS SPEAKING OF "LOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF EVENTS" IN EXPLOSIVE M.E. SITUATION, AND SAID THAT PERHAPS HE HAD BEEN "TOO DARING" IN SUGGESTING POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF NON-M.E. COUNTRIES, BUT STATED THAT IF CONFLICT WIDENED, IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE REGION COULD BE DRAWN IN. HE DENIED, HOWEVER, THAT ANY SPECIFIC COUNTRIES WERE IMPLIED IN THIS PHRASE.

6. DCM OBSERVED THAT HE HOPED THAT OUR GOVERNMENTS COULD FIND A COMMON LANGUAGE ON THIS QUESTION, AND

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SUGGESTED THAT U.S. PROPOSALS PROVIDE AN EXCELLENT PRACTICAL MEANS OF ACHIEVING THE PRINCIPAL SOVIET AIMS AS SET FORTH IN HIS STATEMENT. GRINEVSKIY SAID THAT HE, TOO, HOPED THAT COOPERATION WOULD BE POSSIBLE, AS IT WAS AT THE TIME OF THE U.S.-SOVIET JOINT STATEMENT OF LAST OCTOBER.

7. COMMENT: GRINEVSKIY WAS OBVIOUSLY NOT IN A POSITION TO RESPOND CONCRETELY TO U.S. PROPOSALS, BUT WE WERE STRUCK BY THE ABSENCE OF THE USUAL SOVIET ACRIMONY IN HIS DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUE. TOON

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